million were approved for India from UNIDO managed resources.

Threat to Paper Industry

6417. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 11th March, 1995 on the WTO threat to our paper industry; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to protect and strengthen India's newsprint industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recently announced Newsprint Policy, protective tariff is envisaged, as and when the need arises, to safeguard the interest of the indigenous Newsprint Industry.

High prices of shoes manufactured in the country

6418. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian shoe market is worth over Rupees 8,000 crore but its consumption in the country is just 0.5% of the population;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has the benefit of cheap raw material, labour and an expertise in shoe manufacturing, yet their prices are prohibitory for the masses of the country; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) *The total turn over of the leather industry which includes leather footwear, leather goods, leather garments and finished leather is Rs. 8,000/- crores approximately. The per capita annual consumption of total footwear in the country is around 1.5 pairs and the per capita annual consumption of leather footwear is around 0.5 pairs and the consumption is not restricted to 0.5% of the population.

*Source: Report of the Working Group on Leather & Leather Goods industries for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95).

(b) and (c) Indian raw materials are more or less at international price levels. The high cost of leather shoe arises mainly from the high cost of raw materials and other inputs. However, footwear made of different raw materials is available at various price levels and ranges that are affordable. Government has exempted excise duty on footwear costing up to Rs. 50/- per pair to make it available at a fair price for the masses.

Optical Glasses supplied by BOGL

6419. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3895 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1995 and state:

(a) the quantity of Optical Glasses indented by Ordnance factories, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Government Hospitals during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and the figure of actual supply during the period; and

(b) the figure of Optical Glasses supplied by Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd. out of the demand of the above institutions during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.